

# City Discontinues Leaf Mulch Delivery

## Free Pickup Available in February

Due to budget constraints, the City of Falls Church has discontinued leaf mulch delivery. However, beginning in early February, free double-ground leaf mulch will be available for pickup at the Recycling Center (217 Gordon Road). Bring your own container and pitch fork or shovel.



The leaf mulch is produced from leaves that were vacuumed from City streets in the fall.

The leaf mulch program accomplishes two important goals:

- **It saves tax dollars.** Every fall, Department of Environmental Services Operations staff vacuums approximately 5,000 cubic yards of leaves from the curb. It is far less expensive to recycle the leaves into mulch and offer it back to residents than it is to haul the leaves away and pay to dispose of them.
- **It brings life back to soil.** Adding leaf mulch to your soil will naturally turn clay-rich soil into nutrient-rich soil that is healthier for your trees and plants, with zero waste in the process.

For more information about the leaf mulch program, call the Environmental Programs Specialist at 703-248-5176 (TTY 711) or visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov).

## Fire Safety Tips for the Holidays

### Candle Safety Tips

Candles give a pleasant, festive air to the holidays, but can be dangerous when used improperly.

- Candles should be placed on stable, uncluttered surfaces, away from edges and with nothing above them.
- Do not place candles within one foot of anything flammable, like curtains, furniture, bedding or paper. Pay special attention around holiday decorations.
- Candles should be in holders that are stable, sturdy, non-flammable and can collect any dripping wax.
- Trim candle wicks to one quarter of an inch (1/4") before use.
- Do not leave candles burning unattended.
- Do not let children play with candles.

### Christmas Tree Safety

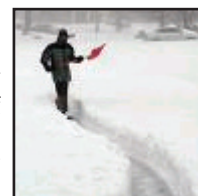
- If you have a live Christmas tree, be sure to keep it well-watered. A dry tree is tinder, just waiting to burn.
- If you get an artificial tree, look for one marked "fire-resistant."
- Keep trees, especially live ones, away from heat sources. Heat dries live trees quickly.
- Make sure light sets are in good condition, with no fraying or exposed wires.
- Turn out all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

## Christmas and New Year's Holiday Schedules

<b>CITY HALL</b>	<b>CLOSED Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1</b>
<b>DMV SELECT IN CITY HALL</b>	
<b>LIBRARY</b>	
<b>SENIOR CENTER</b>	
<b>COURTS</b>	<b>CLOSED Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1</b>
<b>SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY CENTER</b>	<b>CLOSED Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1</b> <b>CLOSED at 5 p.m. Dec. 31</b>
<b>GEORGE BUS</b>	<b>NO SERVICE Dec. 25 and Jan. 1</b>
<b>REFUSE, RECYCLING, &amp; SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>NO PICKUPS Dec. 25 or Jan. 1</b> <b>REFUSE &amp; RECYCLING will be collected Thursday Dec. 31 for the Thursday and Friday collection areas.</b> <b>For information about collections, call 703-248-5316 (TTY 711) or 703-248-5176 (TTY 711).</b>

## Review the City Snow Removal Policy

Now that winter is officially here, the City reminds residents and businesses of the snow removal policy. The Department of Environmental Services Operations Division is responsible for snow removal in the City right of way. Clearing snow from driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the resident. Plow operators do not have control over the snow coming off the edge of the blade, and their plows cannot be adjusted for the sharp turns required to clear driveways.



### Residential Snow Removal

Residents must remove snow/ice from sidewalks surrounding the property 12 hours after snowfall. If the snow falls at night, residents have 12 hours after sunrise to remove it. Snow/ice must not be placed on City streets.

### Commercial Snow Removal

Commercial property owners must remove snow/ice from sidewalks surrounding the property six hours after snowfall. If the snow falls at night, businesses have six hours after sunrise to remove it. Snow/ice must not be placed on City streets.

## Leaf Collection Ends Jan. 8

Residents who wish to have their loose leaves collected by the City are advised to rake leaves to the curb, but avoid gutters and sidewalks wherever possible.

### Dec. 28-Jan. 8

- Areas north of Broad Street  
(Thursday and Friday Collection Zones)

Properly prepared bundled brush, yard waste bag and special collections will continue throughout the leaf collection season. For more information, call the Operations Division at 703-248-5281 (TTY 711) or visit [www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov).

[www.fallschurchva.gov](http://www.fallschurchva.gov) - The official site for City of Falls Church news

## Questions or Comments?

City of Falls Church, Harry E. Wells Building  
300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046  
703-248-5003 (TTY 711)

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. Call 703-248-5003 (TTY 711).

**24 DECEMBER 2009**  
**Christmas Eve**

City Hall, Community Center, DMV Select, Library, Senior Center, Sheriff's Office, Courts Closed  
Refuse & Recycling Collection for Thursday & Friday Collection Areas  
**25 Christmas Day**  
City Hall, Community Center, Courts, DMV Select, Library, Schools, Senior Center, Sheriff's Office Closed  
No Refuse or Recycling Collections  
**26 Farmers' Market, 8 a.m. - noon**  
**28 Yard Waste, Bundled Brush and Special Collections**



## Johnson Wins TJ Geo Bee

Fourth grader Meredith Johnson's knowledge of Japan proved to be what she needed to win this year's geography bee, last week, at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

More than 150 TJ Tigers participated in the annual contest using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society, which sponsors the contest. The program is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms and to spark student interest in the subject.

The Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Geography Bee will be held next month. The winner of that competition advances along a track that could eventually culminate in a national competition appearance in May in Washington, D.C.

## GMHS Quiz Bowl Team Aces "It's Academic"

Want a sure bet for the holidays? Tune into NBC 4 this Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and watch as the George Mason Quiz Bowl Team continues its undefeated season on the popular "It's Academic" show.

We can guarantee a positive outcome because the program was videotaped in November for airing this weekend. Though the scores have not been announced, it is known the Mustangs came away with an unblemished record.

That record currently stands at 13-0, clinching the Bull Run District regular season title after a 300-105 win over Rappahannock County High School last week.



Meredith Johnson

## FCCPS Teachers Earn National Certification

Three more teachers in the Falls Church City Public Schools now hold certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. George Mason High School teachers Kate Dirga and Mary Jo Webster, and Mary



Kate Dirga (left), Mary Jo Webster, Rory Dippold

Ellen Henderson Middle School teacher Rory Dippold earned the certification following a two-year process of intensive study, peer review, expert evaluation and self-assessment.

Having teachers achieve national board certification is among the Falls Church City School Board's performance metrics goals for the school division. In all, 16 FCCPS teachers now hold national board certification.

## Secret "Santas" Bring Holiday Cheer to Children

Thanks to the kindness of strangers, the holidays will be a little merrier for several Falls Church City public school families. Ireland's Four Provinces restaurant recently collected nearly 200 toys from their regular customers, and school social workers distribute the toys to families in need.



Donated toys collected by the Four Provinces restaurant are sorted at the Falls Church City Public Schools Central Office before being distributed to families in need for the holidays.

## Calendar for December 24, 2009 - January 4, 2010

### December

- 24-25 Winter Break (Schools Closed / Day Care Closed)
- 28-31 Winter Break (Schools Closed / Day Care Open)
- 28 12:30 p.m. Mason @ Pohanka Classic, Chantilly – (B Basketball)
- 4:00 p.m. Mason @ Pohanka Classic, Chantilly – (G Basketball)
- 6:00 p.m. EIP/HEP Tutoring (GM)
- 29 8:00 a.m. Mason @ Woodbridge (Wrestling)
- Pohanka Classic, Chantilly continues (B & G Basketball)
- 30 9:00 a.m. Mason @ Woodbridge (Wrestling)
- Pohanka Classic, Chantilly continues (B & G Basketball)

### January

- 1 New Year's Day (Schools Closed / Day Care Closed)
- 2 5:00 p.m. Mason @ Potomac Falls (B Basketball)
- 4 School Reopens
- 6:00 p.m. EIP/HEP Tutoring (GM)
- 7:00 p.m. Special Education Advisory Comm. (TJ)

For more calendar information, visit [www.fccps.org/calendar](http://www.fccps.org/calendar).  
(MD) Mt. Daniel School (TJ) Thomas Jefferson Elementary  
(MEH) Mary Ellen Henderson Middle  
(GM) George Mason High (CO) Central Office

[www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org) - The official site for Falls Church City Public Schools news

## FCC-TV Spotlight: Entertainment Unlimited

Tune in to Falls Church Community Television (FCC-TV) to watch *Entertainment Unlimited* and enjoy some holiday music. This month's program features bells, choirs, and traditional Christmas services. *Entertainment Unlimited* airs on FCC-TV at the following times:



- Sundays at 8:00 p.m.

You can now see FCC-TV programming live at [www.fcctv.net](http://www.fcctv.net) anywhere in the world! FCC-TV also airs in the greater Falls Church area on Cox Channel 12, Verizon Channel 35 and RCN Channel 2.



## BIE Partner of the Week Colm Dillon and Ciara Collins Ireland's Four Provinces

**School involvement:** Collected more than 200 toys to distribute to Falls Church children as holiday gifts.

**Why Colm and Ciera are BIE partners:** "Four P's has an annual staff and 'regulars' party, and we ask each guest to donate a toy for a child's holiday gift. As a Falls Church business, we are pleased to be able to support families in our community by providing presents and surprises."

For more information about sharing your expertise through the BIE Partnership, visit [www.fccps.org](http://www.fccps.org) or contact Marybeth Connelly at [connellym@fccps.org](mailto:connellym@fccps.org).



## Foundation Footnotes

### Need a Year-End Gift Idea?

Looking for a tax deduction? The Falls Church Education Foundation is now accepting year-end gifts. Past year-end contributions have included cash, long-term appreciated stock, and donations from an IRA. For more information about short or long-term donations and tax implications, contact the foundation office at (703) 538-3381 or email Donna Englander at [denglander@fcedf.org](mailto:denglander@fcedf.org).

The Falls Church Education Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. Visit [www.fcedf.org](http://www.fcedf.org) for more information.



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